

**To:** Russo, Rebecca[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov]  
**From:** Faulk, Libby  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 1:55:12 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County

For some reason I have only her home and the 303 882 cell. What's the other one?

Libby Faulk, Program Manager

Public Affairs and Community Involvement

US EPA, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop Street

Denver, CO 80202

[faulk.libby@epa.gov](mailto:faulk.libby@epa.gov)

303-312-6083

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:54 AM  
**To:** Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** Re: Release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County

Yikes! I'll try to track her down the minute I'm in. You tried both cells?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:52 AM, Faulk, Libby <[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov](mailto:Faulk.Libby@epa.gov)> wrote:

Trying to get a hold of Paula but she's not answering phone or text. I'm in the middle of Joan and Shaun. Been here before with past RA and Carol Campbell. Not fun. Need advice quick!

Libby Faulk, Program Manager  
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303-312-6083

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:51 AM  
**To:** Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** Re: Release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County

One way in. Series of mishaps, so I'm running later than I wanted to be. I'll be in at 8:15.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 7, 2015, at 7:49 AM, Faulk, Libby <[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov](mailto:Faulk.Libby@epa.gov)> wrote:

Are you in the office?

Libby Faulk, Program Manager  
Public Affairs and Community Involvement  
US EPA, Region 8  
1595 Wynkoop Street  
Denver, CO 80202  
[faulk.libby@epa.gov](mailto:faulk.libby@epa.gov)

303-312-6083

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 7:49 AM  
**To:** Faulk, Libby  
**Subject:** Re: Release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County

I don't know why I put an exclamation point on there!!! :)

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 6, 2015, at 9:37 PM, Faulk, Libby <[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov](mailto:Faulk.Libby@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks

Libby Faulk, Program Manager

Public Affairs and Community Involvement Program

U.S. EPA, Region 8

303-312-6083

On Aug 6, 2015, at 9:36 PM, Russo, Rebecca <[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov)> wrote:

The Tipton staffer is Darlene Marcus!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Russo, Rebecca" <[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov](mailto:Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 6, 2015 at 11:42:12 AM MDT  
**To:** "Card, Joan" <[Card.Joan@epa.gov](mailto:Card.Joan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County

Sent to: '[john\\_whitney@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:john_whitney@bennet.senate.gov)';  
'[rosemary\\_rodriguez@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:rosemary_rodriguez@bennet.senate.gov)';  
'[sebastian\\_dawiskiba@bennet.senate.gov](mailto:sebastian_dawiskiba@bennet.senate.gov)';  
'[chuck\\_poplstein@gardner.senate.gov](mailto:chuck_poplstein@gardner.senate.gov)';

'betsy\_bair@gardner.senate.gov'; 'Marcus, Darlene'  
<Darlene.Marcus@mail.house.gov>; 'Aaron'  
<aaron.serna@state.co.us>

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

Office: 303-312-6757

Cell: 303-204-1930

**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 06, 2015 11:40 AM  
**Subject:** Release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County

Hi all,

I wanted to inform you of a release of mine waste into the upper portions of Cement Creek in San Juan County. I will continue to send you updates as they become available.

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Rebecca

Rebecca A. Russo

Region 8 Congressional and Intergovernmental Liaison

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